SKIING PARK CITY RULES, BUT THERE'S MORE

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metro

PHILADELPHIA'S #1 DAILY NEWSPAPER

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Philly is underrated, says blog PAGE 03

Living large without going broke PAGE 08

ScarJo prego with fiance's kid PAGE 12

The next YA book craze: 'Half Bad' PAGE 14

Supernanny has tips for tantrums PAGE 17

Cooper's road to redemption PAGE 19

PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS

Big money. After two years, a deal has been announced for the sale of the nation's largest municipally owned gas utility company.

Big help. Up to $631 million could aid in giving money to the city's underfunded pension system.

PAGE 02

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NEWS

Local Tweet

"The city done sold pgw"

Things done gone change, @kiesh30.

Top 3

What's trending at Metro.us

1 'PHOTOS: Large snake chokes, eats crocodile after five-hour struggle'

2 'VINE VID: E!'s 'Fashion Turn' shows a 360-degree view of the 2014 Oscars red carpet looks'

3 'VIDEO: Dogs share ice cream cone'

PGW's $1.8 billion sale will help pension fund

Sold. A utility company agreed to purchase Philadelphia Gas Works, pending council approval.

The important details

- Consumer rates are frozen for three years.
- Employee contracts are good for three years.
- The total number of employees may not dip below 1,350 for at least three years.
- All worker pensions will be covered, according to the agreement.

Quoted

"UIL submitted the highest bid for PGW and ... maintains PGW's discount programs for low-income families and seniors." Nutter

Mayor Michael Nutter announced Monday morning that he has agreed to sell Philadelphia Gas Works to New England-based UIL Holdings Corporation for $1.86 billion.

After the city pays its bills and dues, it expects to have between $424 million and $631 million remaining that it will then use to bolster the city's pension fund, which is currently less than 50 percent funded, Nutter said.

The deal is pending approval of the Public Utility Commission and City Council. Council approval might prove difficult as members have expressed hesitation in the past to forfeit the valuable asset.

UIL CEO James Torgerson said Monday he knows some council members were against it, "but they haven't seen the terms of the deal."

The union representing the largest amount of workers, Local 686 Utility Workers Union of America, has claimed the sale puts jobs at risk and could mean higher customer rates.

The almost 180-year-old company is the nation's largest municipally owned gas utility with 500,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers and 1,600 employees.

The company, which serves about 706,000 electric and natural gas customers, boasts more than $4 billion in assets. Once the sale is complete, UIL plans to operate dual corporate headquarters in Philadelphia and New Haven.

TOMMY ROWAN
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These guys are making the most of it

Sailors toss snow at each other on the flight deck of the USS Somerset on Monday after an overnight storm covered the region in ice and snow. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Filed. 'Swiss Cheese Pervert' faces charges over fourth victim.

April court date

He remains free on bond after he posted 10 percent of his $90,000 bail in January.

- His next court date is scheduled for April 1 in courtroom 906.

The list of women who claim a 42-year-old Norristown man allegedly dangled his swiss in their directions is growing.

Christopher Pagano, also known as the "Swiss Cheese Pervert," was charged with the harassment of a fourth woman on Monday.

The District Attorney's Office officially announced that it filed more charges against Pagano, who was arrested in January for his tendency to masturbate in public with processed cheese. He was originally charged with the harassment of three women. The fourth victim came forward shortly after Pagano's arrest in January.

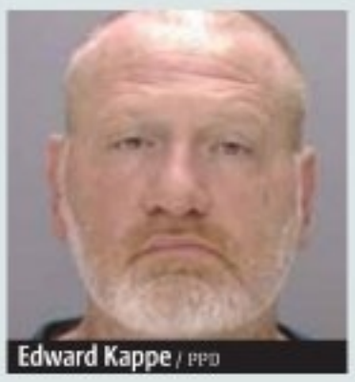
Pagano was captured on camera by the Mayfair Town Watch in January saddling up to neighborhood women in his car, dangling a piece of cheese and encouraging them to rub it on his genitals.

Pagano had been charged with stalking, indecent exposure, harassment and open lewdness.

He was hit with all those same charges again for the fourth woman who came forward. METRO

Update

Wissahickon rape suspect arrested, police say



Edward Kappe / PPD

Police arrested a man Monday afternoon suspected of raping a 32-year-old woman in Wissahickon on Saturday, Philadelphia police said.

Edward Kappe, 46, of the 600 block of Maris Street, was arrested Monday and charged with allegedly sexually assaulting and then robbing the woman at knife point around 11:30 a.m.

Police said he assaulted the woman on the 400 block of Seville Street, according to a news release.

Police said Kappe then stole the woman's cell phone, purse — which contained her wallet — and car keys.

Around 1:12 p.m. on Monday, Kappe was arrested on the 2900 block of West Allegheny Avenue.

He was in possession of the woman's items, police said.

Kappe was charged with rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, theft, burglary and other related offenses. METRO

Winners will be named in chess league tourney

Checkmate. Six possible school teams are vying for three spots in today's finale.

Nearly six months after they started playing, the winners will be crowned today in the Philadelphia Scholastic Chess League finale.

Organized by After School Activities Partnerships, three teams will be standing after 10 weeks of play and two playoff rounds.

"The students have worked really hard for a long time now to get here," said chess director Ben Cooper.

Twelve teams will be competing today at Citizens Bank Park's Diamond Club. Winners will get a sponsorship to the state chess championship tournament.

More than 3,500 students participated in the chess league this year, and Cooper said the students learn much more than just how to play the challenging game.

"I think the biggest thing that I see is the improvement in decision-making," he said. "That's a really powerful thing for students to learn. It really does translate to their daily lives."

Schools left standing

- Blankenburg Elementary School and Russell Byers Charter School
- Blankenburg Middle School and KIPP Charter School
- Academy at Palumbo High School and Carver High School of Engineering and Science

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
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A little snow won't stop these people

A jogger runs along Columbus Boulevard on Monday after an overnight storm covered the region in ice and snow — but not as much as expected. Only a couple of inches fell in Philadelphia; reports just a few days ago had predicted up to a foot. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Brotherly love

Philly is underrated, says blog

According to Huffington Post Travel, our city deserves a second look. We happen to agree.

In a blog post on Monday, the author gave 31 reasons why Philadelphia is the most underrated city in the country.

We're glad the blog is continuing to notice our restaurants, budding music and arts scenes, and amazing craft beer.

And, of course, we're always grateful when the best thing about our city is recognized by outsiders: Wawa. METRO

Homicide

One dead in Kensington shooting

A man in his 20s died in a shooting in Kensington on Sunday evening.

The victim sustained gunshot wounds to his arm and head. METRO

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Nataliya L., USA Vein Clinics Patient
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Russian markets plunge as Putin looms over Crimea

Threat of war. The Russian president is poised to use military force in the region.

A unit claiming to be Cossack and other citizen pro-Russian volunteers arrive to take up position outside a Ukrainian military base where heavily-armed unidentified soldiers have surrounded Ukrainian soldiers inside in Crimea Monday. / GETTY IMAGES

Russia paid a heavy financial price on Monday for its military intervention in neighboring Ukraine, with stocks, bonds and the ruble plunging as President Vladimir Putin's forces tightened their grip on the Russian-speaking Crimea region.

The Moscow stock market fell 10.8 percent, wiping nearly $60 billion off the value of Russian companies — more than the $51 billion Russia spent on the Winter Olympics in Sochi last month.

The central bank spent as much as $12 billion of its reserves to prop up the ruble as investors took fright at tensions with the West over the former Soviet republic.

Putin declared over the weekend that he had the right to invade Ukraine to protect Russian interests and citizens.

U.S. President Barack Obama called Russia's actions a violation of international law and, of Ukraine's sovereignty, said Washington would look at sanctions to isolate Moscow.

"Over time this will be a costly proposition for Russia. And now is the time for them to consider whether they can serve their interests in a way that resorts to diplomacy as opposed to force," he told reporters, saying Putin should let international monitors mediate a deal acceptable to all Ukrainians.

The European Union threatened unspecified "targeted measures" unless Russia returns its forces to their bases and opens talks with Ukraine's new government.

In his first public appearance for nearly a week, Putin flew to watch military maneuvers in western Russia in what appeared designed as a show of strength.

Russia's Black Sea fleet denied reports it had given Ukrainian forces in Crimea an ultimatum to surrender by early on Tuesday or face attack, Interfax news agency said. The United States said any such threat would be a dangerous escalation.

Ukraine's acting president said Russia's military presence in Crimea was growing. Ukrainian officials said Russia was building up armor on its side of the 2.7 mile wide Kerch strait between the Crimean peninsula and southern Russia.

Russian forces later began shipping truckloads of troops by ferry into the Crimea region after seizing the border post on the Ukrainian side, Ukraine's border guards spokesman said. REUTERS

Quoted

"Over time this will be a costly proposition for Russia. And now is the time for them to consider whether they can serve their interests in a way that resorts to diplomacy as opposed to force."
Obama

Sen. Murphy says

Sanctions would need Europe

U.S. lawmakers are considering options such as imposing sanctions on Russia's banks and freezing assets of Russian public institutions and private investors because of Moscow's moves in Ukraine, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, the chairman of the Senate's Europe subcommittee, said on Monday.

However, U.S. sanctions against Russia will have little effect if they are not matched by actions from Europe, Murphy said. REUTERS

Taking stock

US stocks slide amid turmoil

U.S. stocks tumbled on Monday alongside other risky assets globally as tensions in Ukraine and Russia escalated.

News that Ukraine mobilized for war on Sunday and Washington threatened to isolate Russia economically overshadowed better-than-expected U.S. data, including an index showing that factory activity rebounded from an eight-month low in February. REUTERS

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Apple unveils iPhone technology for drivers

Hands-free.
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Apple makes its next move in hands-free smartphone technology for car drivers when it unveils a new, integrated iPhone voice-control system at the Geneva Motor Show this week.

The company's CarPlay makes its debut in Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo vehicles at the show, demonstrating the software system that allows drivers to control their iPhones via touch and voice, Apple said on Monday.

If you enjoyed talking to your phone, you'll love talking to your car, too. / GETTY IMAGES

Drivers can also use maps, listen to music and access messages "with just a word or a touch," Apple said. Drivers will also be able to read messages and dictate responses via Apple's Siri software.

Apple said CarPlay will be available in cars from BMW, Ford, GM, Honda, Hyundai, PSA Peugeot Citroën, Subaru, Suzuki and Toyota. **REUTERS**

Late to the party

Zynga tries to jump on mobile gaming train

Zynga Inc. said on Monday it will kick off a soft launch of its "FarmVille 2: Country Escape" game and two other updated core titles before the end of March — critical first steps as it seeks to remake itself as a mobile gaming company.

"Did the company miss a beat with the transition to mobile? Absolutely. Are we fixing that? Yes, we are," Chief Executive Don Mattrick said in a recent interview. **REUTERS**

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Supreme Court declines immigration hearings

Jurisdiction. Frustrated at federal efforts, communities have attempted to crack down on illegal immigration themselves.

The federal Supreme Court on Monday rejected attempts by towns in Texas and Pennsylvania to revive local laws that cracked down on illegal immigration.

The court decided against hearing appeals filed by Farmers Branch, Texas, and Hazleton, Penn., which were seeking to overturn appeals court rulings that said the ordinances were trumped by federal immigration law. In doing so, the court left intact the appeals court rulings and avoided wading into the divisive issue of immigration at a time when reform efforts have stalled in Congress.

Prompted by concerns that the federal government was not adequately enforcing immigration laws, officials in both towns enacted ordinances that, among other things, required tenants to provide identification that could later be verified with immigration authorities and penalized landlords from renting to illegal immigrants.

The Hazleton ordinance also penalized employers for knowingly employing unlawful immigrants. Groups of tenants, landlords, employers and workers challenged the laws in court. They won in both cases, prompting the towns to seek Supreme Court review. REUTERS

Barbed wire surrounds the base of a flag pole erected by Minutemen-style activists. / REUTERS

Immigrant advocates

Advocates for immigrants say that:

- Five out of six federal courts of appeals that have dealt with similar housing-related ordinances have held that they conflict with the federal government's role as the primary enforcer of immigration law.

Time for school

Michelle Obama to visit China schools

First lady Michelle Obama will travel to three cities in China this month, her daughters and mother in tow, and plans to share stories of her travels with American students through a travel blog, the White House said on Monday.

Obama will meet her counterpart, Peng Liyuan, during the trip. REUTERS

Witness stand.

South African Paralympian Pistorius' trial begins

The first witness at Oscar Pistorius' murder trial told the court on Monday she heard "bloodcurdling screams" from a woman followed by shots, a dramatic opening to a case that could see one of global sport's most admired role models jailed for life.

Taking the stand after the Paralympic and Olympic star pleaded not guilty to murdering his girlfriend, model Reeva Steenkamp, on Valentine's Day last year, neighbor Michelle Burger testified she was woken in the middle of the night by a woman shouting for help.

"I was still sitting in the bed and I heard her screams," Burger, who lives 194 yards from Pistorius' home in an adjacent housing complex, told the Pretoria High Court.

"She screamed terribly and she yelled for help. Then I also heard a man screaming for help. Three times he yelled for help," she said, speaking in Afrikaans through an interpreter.

Thinking it was a violent break-in — a possibility in crime-ridden South Africa — Burger said her husband called the private security firm guarding their upmarket Pretoria housing estate before the pair heard more shouts.

"I heard the screams again. It was worse. It was more intense," said Burger, a Pretoria University economics lecturer. "She was very scared." REUTERS

PISTORIUS COMPETED IN THE 2010 LONDON OLYMPICS. GETTY IMAGES

Finding a cure

South African scientists map out HIV antibodies

Scientists in South Africa have mapped the evolution of an antibody that kills different strains of the HIV virus, which might yield a vaccine for the incurable disease, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases said on Monday.

The researchers were able to clone the antibodies and would test, first in monkeys, if they were able to give immunity to a person without the virus, said Lynn Morris, head of the institute's virology unit. REUTERS

By the numbers

6M

More than 10 percent of the South African population — 6 million people — are infected with HIV/AIDS.

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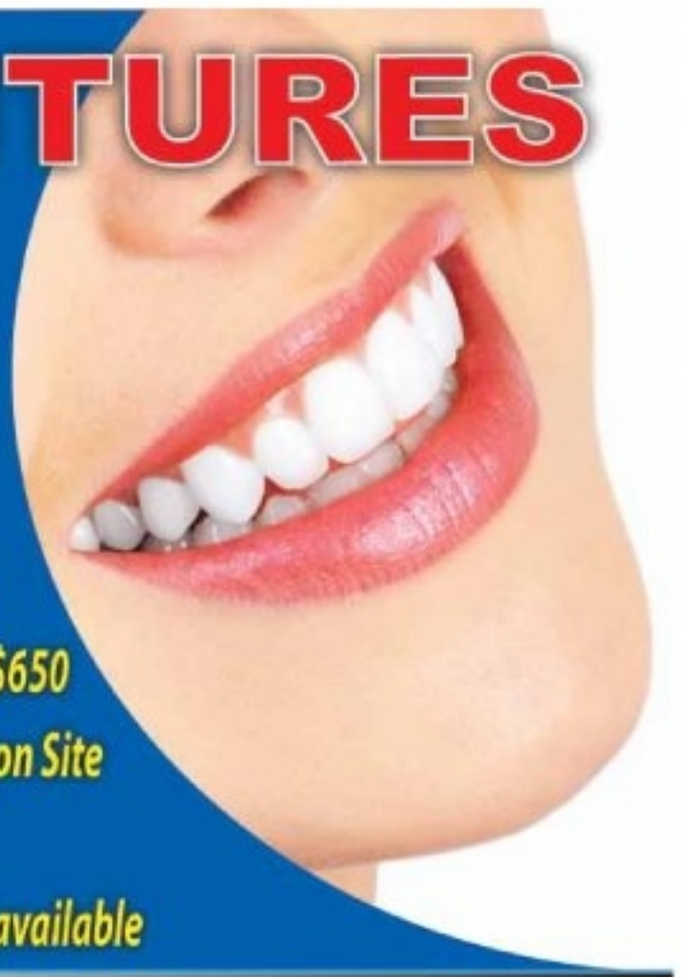

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Faking it. Advice for keeping up with your higher-earning friends without going broke.

Appearances are important, and no one knows this better than the underpaid, over-educated assistants working in industries like media, art and publishing. But how do you keep up with your banker friends or colleagues who are higher up on the pay scale?

Carrie Sloan, editor-in-chief at LearnVest, says no matter how important it seems to keep up with the Joneses, it's important not to get seduced into a lifestyle you can't afford and rack up scary credit card debt. "In the end, feeling in control of your money will give you more confidence at work than looking super-trendy," she says.

1 Reduce your fixed expenses: Fixed costs are expenses that are regular and do not change between time periods, such as rent and groceries. Sloan explains that if you can reduce your fixed expenses, you can make room for little luxuries in other parts of your budget. "If you can make changes like bringing your lunch to work, which costs an average of $1,000 a year or getting roommates and spending $400 less per month on rent, that's more money that you free up for 'lifestyle' choices like dinners out or fun accessories," she says.

2 Create personal money rules: Laying down the law can help curb your spending. Create rules for yourself that you won't break. "It might be, 'I only buy items under $3 at Trader Joe's,' 'I never spend more than $10 on an accessory' or 'I always bring my lunch to work,'" says Sloan. These rules may seem insignificant, but the savings will eventually add up.

3 Invest in a few key pieces: It may be important in your industry to look pulled together, but you don't need to spend a fortune to look the part. Sloan suggests finding key accessories, like a chic, versatile bag, or stylish glasses to have a signature look without having to keep up with short-lived trends.

4 Wait it out: Are you dying to buy something that's out of your budget? Sloan suggests pinning it on Pinterest and waiting for a few days. You may find you don't need it anymore. "Studies show that the brain chemicals that entice us to buy will dissipate if you instate a waiting period," she explains.

ANDREA PARK

Extra tip

Shop smart

Sloan suggests buying quality pieces at sample sales and vintage stores in posh neighborhoods. There are also a number of flash sales, but it's easy to get a little too click-happy when you're online shopping. "Create a separate email address where you have all of your 'sales' emails sent, so you're not tempted to impulse buy," she says.

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How one recent grad pays the bills

Making it work.
Meet Lucky, who works a night job so he can intern during the day.

In our Second Shift series, we're profiling people who work more than one job to make ends meet. This week, meet Lucky Fischer, who graduated in August but is still on the hunt for a full-time job.

The stats

Lucky Fischer

Age: 22
Home: Germantown, Philadelphia
Lives with: His parents
Number of jobs: 1 job, 1 internship

For extra money, Fischer works at Urban Outfitters during the holidays and summer. / COURTESY OF LUCKY FISCHER

Where did you go to school?
I started out at Penn State, then transferred to Temple University, where I graduated with a degree in strategic communications with a concentration in public relations.

Is that the field your internship is in?
Yes. I intern five days a week at a full-service communications and advertising agency. We work with a lot of different clients, such as Geno's Steaks, and help manage their social media, events and various other things. It's unpaid, but I get a stipend.

What's your main job?
The job that pays the bills is with a place that helps people who are intellectually challenged. I work in their homes at night, from 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. Since I have the night shift, I mainly help them in the morning with breakfast, taking their medications and getting dressed. Then, one of my co-workers drives them to appointments during the day, takes them food shopping, clothes shopping, and gets them involved with the community. So during the week, I work my night job from 11 p.m. to 9 a.m., and then head to my internship, where I am from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

When do you sleep?
I have weekends off, so that's when I'm able to catch up on sleep, see my friends and take time for myself.

Do you think having to work at night hurts your performance at your internship?
Not at all. It's not like I'm up doing much — I have time to relax and read. And my internship bosses are really understanding. If I need a day off because I'm too tired or too busy, they understand.

Are you hoping your internship turns into a job?
Yeah, I hope if a position opens up that I will be able to get a job with them. But if not, I'm totally satisfied with the experience and getting my feet wet at a company I really like.

Q&A

Are you able to save money, since you live at home?

Yes, tremendously. I have to start paying my student loans this month, but because I've been living at home I've been able to save so I can pay them and won't have to worry about falling behind. I'm about to move into a two-bedroom apartment with my old college roommate, but I'll still be able to save. The rent is only $575, which we will be splitting.

SECOND SHIFT

Creative ways city dwellers make ends meet

EMILY LAURENCE
Contact us if you have a story to tell: emily.laurence@metro.us

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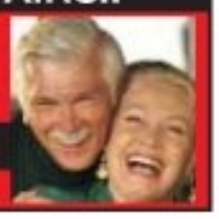

The campus quad, redone

Green space.
Outdoor amenities help students relax and interact.

When you walk across the quad at Wake Forest University, it's completely normal to spot students playing Monopoly while sipping java from nearby coffee carts.

Outdoor amenities like Ping-Pong tables, a foosball table, reading rooms and a black and gold piano are among the recent additions at the North Carolina campus courtesy of the brain trust of Dan Biederman's firm, Biederman Redevelopment Ventures Corporation. He's behind the restoration of New York's Bryant Park and the creator of private urban redevelopment projects.

George Roberts, BRV project manager, began the campus initiative two years ago by asking, "What can we learn from the successes of urban parks that can de-stress students?"

By talking extensively to faculty and staff to crack open their concerns about busy schedules, it became clear. The goal was, Roberts said, to make the campus "a more engaging, more comfortable space to relax" and to break up the routine from "a class to library to bed mentality."

Outdoor tables and chairs emerged like the ones in New York's Bryant Park, the Boston Common and the Porch at 30th Street Station in Philadelphia. Plus, a chalkboard made it a no-brainer for professors to hold class outside. Roberts recalls students saying they spend time with small groups of friends and stick to their clusters.

Hence, the birth of the games and fitness equipment cart on Hearn Plaza, with games including checkers and Wiffle ball. He says that students may not know one another in the sea of 4,000 students, "but they might stop to play a game of Ping-Pong."

This is particularly important considering students rock out to headphones and remain fixated on their smartphones. Thomas Ray, 2013 Wake Forest graduate and its coordinator of outdoor programming initiatives, says he noticed a significant shift.

"Whether foosball, chess, Jenga or bocce, our students are finding the time to socialize," Ray says. Witnessing a more connected community is mission accomplished for Roberts, who wants to see the idea spread.

"Even some of the city schools that have parks like NYU, they could become even more of a hotbed of a campus community."

VICKI SALEMI
letters@metro.us

Quoted

"Before this initiative, the outdoor space was simply that — space. By strategically adding movable furniture, magazine and newspaper racks and a game cart, we create a robust, vibrant hub of activity. This addition is beginning to change the 'tone' of campus."
Thomas Ray

See more at www.metro.us

Hearn Plaza, at Wake Forest University, uses outdoor space to bring students together. / PROVIDED

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News Corp invests in digital education

Tablets. Education gets a swipe-friendly update.

News Corp has invested millions of dollars in their education initiative, Amplify. / MONKEY BUSINESS

News Corp's education division Amplify unveiled a digital curriculum in a move to kick-start growth in the unit after years of investment.

The curriculum is for English Language Arts aimed at middle school students and features content from a library of e-books, dramatic readings by actors, story animations and role-playing games about classic authors such as Edgar Allan Poe.

Amplify is betting on the changes roiling U.S. school districts, which are spending billions of dollars on digital technology at the expense of textbooks. The software is also compatible with the national Common Core program.

News Corp purchased Wireless Generation, an educational analytics and assessment firm, for $300 million in 2010. Since then, it has expanded the educational unit, investing millions of dollars. In the most recent quarter, News Corp reported it spent $10 million related to product and curriculum development for the unit. REUTERS

By the numbers

$45

Cost of digital lessons being offered by Amplify

Podcast. 'Planet Money' makes sense of tuition dollars

Follow the money to the diploma with NPR. / PROVIDED

If there's one truism that gets to the heart of most issues, it's that following the money will invariably help you understand what's really going on. NPR's twice-weekly radio show and podcast "Planet Money" is expert at getting on the financial trail, and for anyone looking for answers about higher education, it's the place to go.

In its recent episode "Duke's $30,000 Tuition Discount," reporter Lisa Chow looks at where students' tuition dollars actually go, using Duke University as a measurement. From low-carb dining options to high-tech labs for star professors, Chow and host Alex Blumberg talk to students, professors and administrators who weigh in on the bottom line at elite research institutions like Duke.

For anyone interested in how college plays (and pays) out, this episode is not to be missed. And for anyone deep in debt or shelling out their hard-earned dollars for a college education, the show might make some sense of that hefty price tag. JULIA FURLAN

By the numbers

$60K

Yearly cost of tuition at Duke, though it depends on the student to get his or her money's worth

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THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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After the Oscars — a quick costume and friend change

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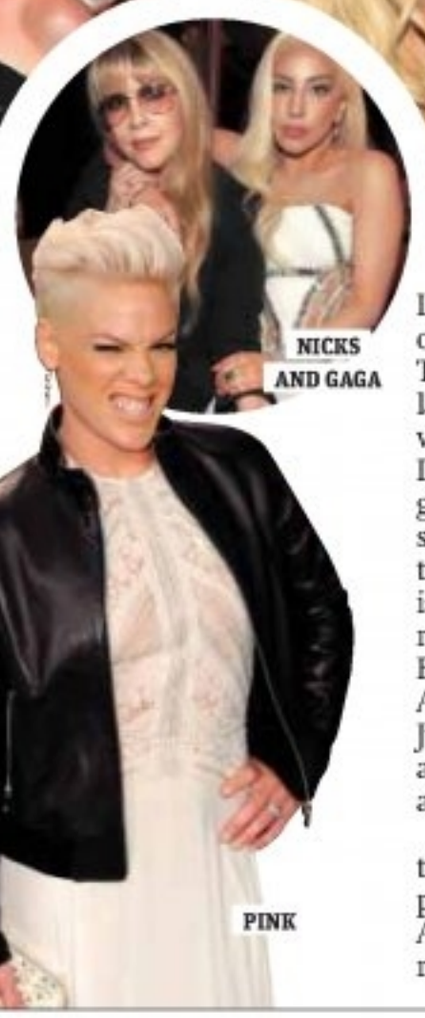

NICKS AND GAGA

ORA AND TYLER

PINK

Sometimes, Vanity Fair's Oscars afterparty lends to better dresses — and better conversations — than the Academy Awards themselves.

Lady Gaga and Stevie Nicks chatted it up at the magazine's West Hollywood fete. Gaga had a distinctly Veronica Lake vibe in her cut-out gown, while Stevie Nicks channeled, well, Stevie Nicks.

America's goofy sweetheart, Jennifer Lawrence, changed out of her Dior gown for this Tom Ford mini. She was later snapped chatting with comedy god Larry David while drinking a glass of white wine. (For some reason, it's soothing to know that Lawrence is a white wine drinker, no?) Another comedy god, Bill Murray, talked with Academy Award nominee Julie Delpy. Steven Tyler and a stunning Rita Ora also turned up.

Meanwhile, back on the red carpet, Jared Leto photobombed an unaware Anne Hathaway, and Pink rocked a leather jacket.

Talking point

ScarJo is expecting a French bébé

Scarlett Johansson, 29, is expecting a baby with her French fiance Romain Dauriac, E! News confirmed yesterday.

Not much is known about Johansson's baby daddy. Alternate reports have him as a journalist, the head of a creative agency and an advertising director. Whoever he is, he has excellent taste: Johansson showed off her ginormous vintage Art Deco engagement ring at the Venice Film Festival in September.

Did ScarJo know she was pregnant when she talked with the Daily Mail in December? "I would like to have my own family, that would be nice," she said. "They say it's never the right time and I am sure that's true, but I think you have to plan it like anything else."

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WATCH A YOUNG ALEC BALDWIN IN 1994'S 'THE SHADOW'

WTF

'The Visitor'

Dug up from under a boulder and re-released at a time when it still makes little sense, this 1979 Italian whatzit finds John Huston as an alien trying to stop an avian-related apocalypse with help from Jesus (Franco Nero). If that weren't weird enough, it features film director Sam Peckinpah as a friendly abortionist.

'The Shadow': Collector's Edition

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As Alec Baldwin retires from fame, it's worth remembering that 20 years ago Hollywood thought he was A-list material. And why not? The mock-suaveness that Baldwin oozed for seven seasons on "30 Rock" was what he really used to ooze. Execs found him suitably thin and hot to place front and center in a summer franchise launcher, namely 1994's "The Shadow," a take on the 1930s superhero of pulp novels and radio, where he was voiced by Orson Welles.

Alas, "The Shadow" failed to find a foothold, joining "The Rocketeer" and "The Phantom" as casualties of a period when Hollywood thought the new thing was resurrected 1930s entertainment. But it's fun to revisit as an old curio. Baldwin plays Lamont Cranston, a villain forcibly reformed, by magic, into a do-gooder with the power of invisibility. The film, written by the overly prolific David Koepp (hot off "Jurassic Park"), gives him no less than a revived ancestor of Genghis Khan, played by "The Last Emperor"'s John Lone, to battle. (Also on hand are Ian McKellen and Tim Curry. If they had more screentime together, they'd be a more enjoyable pair than McKellen and Patrick Stewart.)

Even with such a formidable baddie, "The Shadow" is pretty low stakes, which is to say it's fun but instantly forgettable. If the film were a comic, it'd be blast, as there's always more issues to come. As an expensive movie, it's in and out of your mind much too quickly. Then again, it has a lot of character. Director Russell Mulcahy (of "Highlander" fame) delights in recreating the 1930s, with its Art Deco buildings and swanky wear. He makes each frame look like a comic book panel, and keeps things light and witty. "The Shadow" is no great shakes, but with age it is good shakes.

That's young Alec Baldwin behind cloak, scarf, hat and rubber mask in the 1994 summer movie bomb "The Shadow." / SHOUT! FACTORY

DISC JOCKEY
MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Also out

'The Grandmaster'

We desperately want to recommend Wong Kar-wai's typically gorgeous film of martial arts legend Ip Man (Tony Leung). But the only edition available in the U.S. is the one chopped up by Harvey Weinstein. It's still a beaut, though.

'12 Years a Slave'

Good timing! The Best Picture winner hits shelves; now you can wonder how on earth it didn't win more than three Oscars.

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'Half-Bad' gets an all good reception from YA fanatics

Books. Move over, "Divergent," Sally Green's new novel is taking over.

Sally Green's book "Half-Bad" just came out today and it has already been sold in 45 countries, turned into a trilogy and optioned for a movie, being produced by Karen Rosenfelt, who was responsible for "Twilight," "Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters" and "The Book Thief." Oh, and it's her first book.

If you're already completely over "The Hunger Games" and need something to hold you over until "Divergent" hits theaters, this is it.

"Half-Bad" is about a 16-year-old boy named Nathan, who lives in a cage and is being trained to kill. Living among humans are witches, some purely good and some horrendously evil, with Nathan's father being the worst of the worst. To survive, Nathan needs to escape his keepers, find his father and receive three gifts that will bring him his own magical powers.

Bucking the trend of YA novels set in a futuristic dystopia, "Half-Bad" is set in modern-day England. "The book is [dystopian] in a way, but to be honest I never really believed it was going to be published, so my idea was just to write the book I would want to read if I was 15 or 16," Green tells us. "It wasn't in my mind about what the market needed or didn't need."

Quoted

"I never really believed it was going to be published, so my idea was just to write the book I would want to read if I was 15 or 16."
Green, about "Half-Bad"

Sally Green's book "Half-Bad" comes out March 4. / MARK ALLEN

Interestingly, when Green began writing she had a very different novel in mind: "Initially, it was a completely different story about a girl who didn't know she was a witch." She did, however, always plan on writing a trilogy. "My original idea was for the White Witches to be assumed good and Black Witches assumed to be bad.

"Originally, I had Nathan living in a White Witch world in book one, and you would think the White Witches were going to be good. When you move to book two, the Black Witch world, you see the witches in an entirely new way. And then the third book would tie it all together. But actually, it didn't work out like that," Green reveals.

As far as the movie goes, Green guesses the cast will be mostly unknown actors, although she has two dream people in mind: "To play Marcus, I would love George Clooney, but it would be the mean George Clooney, like in 'From Dusk till Dawn.' And Gabriel, the Black Witch that appears in the end of the book, is definitely Aidan Turner, who was in the latest 'Hobbit' movies. He's gorgeous," she says.

Green is at work on the second book, which she says is much more daunting than writing the first. "I didn't even know the first one was going to be published. I was writing it mainly for myself," she says. "Now I have a deadline and an audience that I have to keep happy. The blank page in the beginning [for the second book] was a bit nerve-racking. I was in a bit of a panic to get the first words down," she says. "After the first 10,000 words, then I relaxed into it."

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Compare and contrast

'Half-Bad'

Protagonist: Nathan, who is half White Witch, and half Black Witch.
Setting: Modern-day, supernatural world.
Moral of the story: Nothing is all black or white.

'Divergent'

Protagonist: Tris, who is biologically set apart from her society's devised factions.
Setting: Future dystopia.
Moral of the story: A person is the sum of his or her parts.

'The Hunger Games'

Protagonist: Katniss, who must fight for her district in a televised death match.
Setting: Future dystopia
Moral of the story: A society divided by class is doomed to fail.

'Twilight'

Protagonist: Bella, a social misfit who falls in love with a vampire.
Setting: Modern-day supernatural world.
Moral of the story: Don't be afraid to be different.

Choose your own adventure in Park City

Trade in the chaos of the city for breathtaking mountain views. / COURTESY OF DEER VALLEY RESORT

Destinations.
This Utah outpost is more than just a film festival hub.

Park City has long been a premiere destination for winter sports enthusiasts all over the world. The snow is so powdery, you can blow it away with a kiss. The airport is only 35 minutes from the slopes, so you can be on your skis within hours of landing. And it's home to dozens of Olympic athletes, including new gold medal snowboarder Sage Kotsenburg and silver medal skier Devin Logan.

But even if you aren't an adrenaline junkie, there's plenty to enjoy in this picturesque mountain town. From a surprising number of art galleries, as well as shopping and one of the best whiskey distilleries around, you won't be bored.

Where to stay

There are three resorts to choose from: **Park City Mountain Resort**, **Canyons** and **Deer Valley Resort**. If you want to experience the city as well as the slopes, PCMR is the way to go. The vibe is relaxed and rustic. The Park City Marriott, part of PCMR, has all the amenities you'll need at a reasonable rate. Styled like a luxe alpine cabin, every night, you can grab a Snuggie and head over to the fire pit for s'mores.

If you're heading to Park City strictly to hit the slopes, check into Canyons resort, one of the largest ski and snowboarding resorts in North America. There are 19 chairlifts and a whole range of terrain on the grounds, not to mention breathtaking views.

If uber-luxury is what you want, you'll feel right at home at Deer Valley Resort — and with condominiums to rent, you'll actually feel like you live there. The St. Regis Hotel sits regally among the mountains and is a skier's paradise: There is no snowboarding allowed.

For outdoor adventure

The powder-filled bowls (the city's slogan is "the greatest snow on Earth") and terrain for skiers of every level, combined with easy accessibility, make Park City one of the best places for serious skiers and snowboarders. When you've had enough skiing and snowboarding, the **zipline** at Canyons will keep your heart racing.

Set aside a couple hours to tour **Utah Olympic Park** to see where the pros train. The guide will even take you to the top of the ski jumps.

If snow sports aren't for you

Mixed in with the ski gear stores on **Main Street** are local clothing boutiques and art galleries that keep their doors open late to cater to those who spend all day on the slopes. The last Friday of every month, the town hosts a **Park City Gallery Stroll**, where customers can meander into the local art galleries for wine and conversation with local artists and store owners.

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Fuel for the slopes

Where to eat

The can't-miss restaurant of the city is **High West Distillery & Saloon**, located right off Main Street. The trendy interior with mason jar lighting and dark wood still bears the bones of the 1870s farmhouse it once was. Sip on the double rye or Campfire whiskey, or the vodka lemonade. To eat, don't miss the black coffee and bourbon-glazed cod, chicken pot pie and Krispy Kreme doughnuts with vanilla ice cream.

For an upscale meal, the **Deer Valley Resort's Seafood Buffet** sets the mood and will leave you satisfied.

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6 Takeaways from the Christian Dior show

SNEELS LOOK DRESSED UP, BUT THE RUBBER SOLE MAKES THEM AS COMFY AS A SNEAKER.
GETTY IMAGES

Paris Fashion Week. After obsessing over the photos and clippings, these are our conclusions.

It was "the most Raf Dior show so far," one editor tweeted. Raf Simons has been at Christian Dior for four seasons, and the love affair the fashion media has been having with his work at the house is still as fresh and new as the day he showed his first collection. Dior's autumn/winter '14 collection was especially ripe with moments to love and talk about.

2 Fashion is still thinking pink. Simons owned the color, showing it in a range of variations from neon magenta to a pale shade of bubble gum. This is important because as one of fashion's most influential arbiters of taste, he has the power to establish trends — or in this case prolong them. That said, expect to see the color around for a lot longer.

3 The bar jacket is the new Le Smoking. Usually we see iconic pieces reimagined with countless modern versions of Yves Saint Laurent's Le Smoking or a safari jacket, but this season, it's Simons' version of Dior's famous bar jacket (the nipped waist jacket portion of his New Look). It's a nod to the past, but more than anything we're betting it's the harbinger of a future moment.

4 The puffer just got classy. We've seen the quilted jacket in florals, leather and techy graphics. But as a cocktail hour-appropriate skirt? In Simons' hands, the idea makes perfect sense.

5 Rihanna has made underwear as outerwear a real thing. The day before the Dior show, Rihanna had three outfit changes (two Balmain and one Lanvin), which ended with her going virtually topless in a nipple-exposing mesh shirt at Olivier Rousteing's party. Let's just call this Rihanna Fashion Week.

6 Simons is ever the critical darling. Excerpts from early reviews:

Style.com: "It's impossible for Simons to design anything that doesn't come straight from the heart."

American Vogue: "A collection that not only felt very much about the house and its legacy, but which coursed with Simons' own aesthetic, perhaps greater than any he has done for the house thus far."

Takeaway 1

Introducing: Sneels

That would be the sneaker heel, thank you. Prada started this idea with spring/summer '14, but Simons perfected it for autumn/winter by showing statement specimens that are slick stilettos on top and sporty, rubber-soled sneakers on the bottom. They're basically the footwear you've spent years wishing existed.

KENYA HUNT
kenya.hunt@metro.lu

Clare Waight Keller finds her footing at Chloe

If anyone wants to tap into that usually hard to recreate way of French girl dressing, she should just look at Chloe's fall '14 collection, which of course was ironically created by a British woman, Clare Waight Keller. But that goes to show just how, after a few hits and misses, she's really gotten into a groove at the house.

It often takes a few seasons for a new designer to put her stamp on a brand, and Waight Keller has shown her strongest collection for the house yet. It works because it looks unmistakably Chloe (the distinctly French prettiness) and yet contemporary and unique (the unaffected cool factor and the absence of too many sartorial bells and whistles, to name a few.) Even when she's working with ubiquitous trends, such as fall's inescapable shaggy surfaces and trimmings, she does it in a unique and memorable way, such as in a series of black, easy and lithe dresses with gold hardware.

KENYA HUNT

WIREIMAGE

Jo Frost's tips for ending toddler tantrums for good

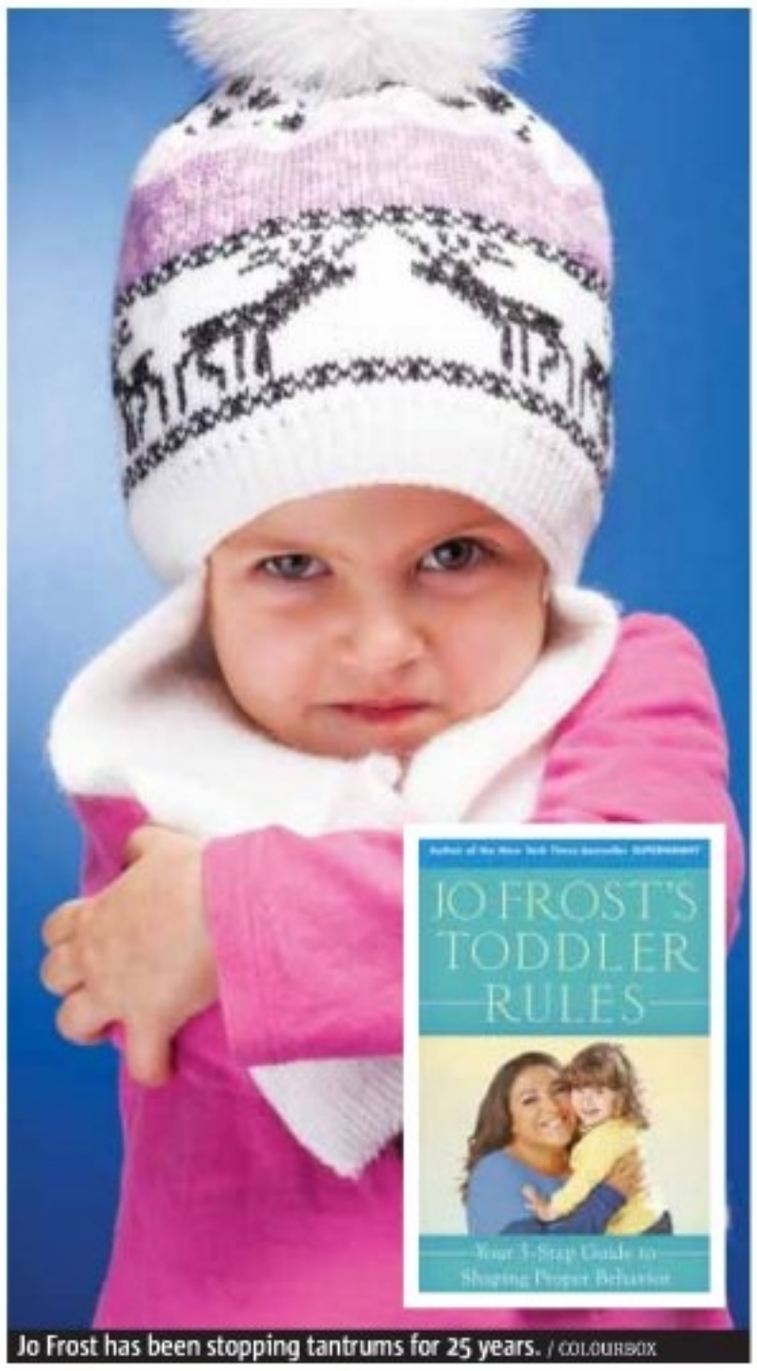
Supernanny. Tame your toddler with these proven tips.

When a toddler starts having a meltdown — complete with monster tears and ear-piercing screams — most parents will do anything to make it stop. After 25 years of tending to others' bratty kids, "Supernanny" Jo Frost has tackled countless torturous tantrums. Now, she's sharing her wisdom in her new book, "Toddler Rules: Your 5-Step Guide to Shaping Proper Behavior."

"It's not about needing to control your child. It's about really understanding what your child is going through and knowing how to respond so you can eliminate them," she tells us. Frost's book focuses on the different types of temper tantrums and how to respond appropriately, teaching parents how to both stop them in the moment and to eliminate them completely.

"Unruly behavior can come from not implementing discipline. There's a gamut of things that can cause tantrums: Children can be tired, hungry or not wanting to leave the park. You have to identify which type of tantrum it is so you can put in place what the child needs," she advises. "If your child is having a meltdown at the mall because he or she wants a toy and you give in just to make it stop, he or she learns very quickly how to get his or her way. That's what you're teaching your child."

Parents who have experienced tantrums during mealtime because their child would rather eat Goldfish crackers than the prepared meal, listen up: "We've become very reliant on dry food. We have to make sure we're bringing our children to the table at consistent meal times," she advises. "We have to resist giving them [junk between meals] because they know if they make enough of a fuss, they'll get crackers before dinner. And then an hour later, they don't want anything to eat."



Jo Frost has been stopping tantrums for 25 years. / COLOURBOX

Jo Frost's book, "Toddler Rules," comes out March 4. / PROVIDED

Perhaps most important is Frost's S.O.S. Method: taking a step back before reacting. "If you're in the eye of the tornado, you can't see what's happening left or right — but if you step back, you can see the whole picture," Frost says. "Then you can respond appropriately."

Of course, not everyone can have Frost come to their rescue, but she does have a few tips when it comes to finding your own supernanny.

"First, define what type of help you're looking for. Then, work with reputable agencies or someone who has been recommended. It's so important to check references and ask questions when you are interviewing.

"When you feel you've found the perfect nanny, do a week shadow, having him or her shadow you before you leave your child completely in his or her care. Even if it's before you hire, you have a right to do that."

EMILY LAURENCE
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New study

Child obesity rate drops to historic low

Federal health authorities have reportedly seen a 43 percent drop in the obesity rate in children ages 2 to 5 years old over the past 10 years. The data says 14 percent of kids between 2 and 5 were overweight in 2004, compared with 8 percent today.

"This is the first time we've seen any indication of any significant decrease in any group," Cynthia L. Ogden, a researcher for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told the New York Times.

While this is encouraging news, federal health researchers warn against being too excited since the rate has only dropped in this small age group and was not seen among children in other age groups or adults.

EMILY LAURENCE

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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Choose an occupation that interests you, and learn as much as you can about it. Developing a plan will lead to advancement.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Nothing will be able to hold you back today. Your energy level is high, and you are in a happy frame of mind.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Address a problem that is concerning you. Listen to the advice of those who have experienced similar difficulties, and you may find the solution you want.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. There are many changes on the horizon. A chance encounter will lead to a very special partnership. You will be praised for your unselfish contribution.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Take special care of your personal interests. You should refuse any loan requests or other pleas for financial contributions.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Romance and enjoyment will be the order of the day. Your goals are being realized through perseverance and hard work.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Slow down and take a good look at your commitments. You risk damaging your health if you don't stop to reassess.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. If you are unhappy, consider the circumstances. Perhaps your expectations are unrealistic. Think things over.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. The key to security is the ability to manage your finances effectively. Share your dreams, and you are likely to come across a kindred spirit.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You will be inspired to take on a new project. Your creativity and imagination will lead to a very successful outcome.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. You need to deal with matters on your own. Otherwise, you will expend a lot of energy trying to get others to agree.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. There is a group that is looking for someone with your credentials. Participate and spend time with those who share your interests. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

9			7					6
1							4	7
	2		3			9		8
					7	4		
8	7		2		6		5	3
		9	4					
7		8			3		6	
6	3							4
4					1			5

			3			4		
6				8	4	7		
1			9		7			6
2	3				5	8		9
				3				
5		9	2				7	3
9			6		2			7
		1	4	7				2
		7			3			

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

US can keep its energy supply stable

Considering presently escalating tensions between Russia and the U.S., we need to be sure there is no threat against the oil we need to import. Venezuela is a source of heavy crude oil but is also politically close to Cuba, which was recently visited by a Russian ship, and Venezuela is not friendly to the U.S. Another source of crude for the U.S. would be Canada via the Keystone pipeline — if President Obama could overcome the paralysis that is preventing him from going forward with allowing a permit for that project. His own State Department has said that studies show the pipeline would not cause any overall increase in greenhouse gases. Business and labor favor the project. Mr. President, which is more important to you: Energy security for the United States of America or delaying a decision for purely political reasons?
GEORGE CHRISTIAN, VIA EMAIL

Originality is not the point of the story

Re: 'Jesus movie. "Son of God" makes you pay to rewatch scenes from "The Bible" miniseries' (Metro, Feb. 28 to March 2) Based on Matt Prigge's jab at Roma Downey and Mark Burnett's movie about the life of Jesus Christ, I am assuming that there is no possible way he watched the entire miniseries. His sweeping generalization about this being a "junk for Jesus" movie is critical in the way of today's dismissive press toward Christianity and all things themed thereof. Having seen it this weekend, it was at the very least an opportunity for nonbelievers to have an understanding of the entire purpose of the Bible, and God's promise to all humanity, if all they do is choose to accept it.
RENÉE VIENS, VIA EMAIL

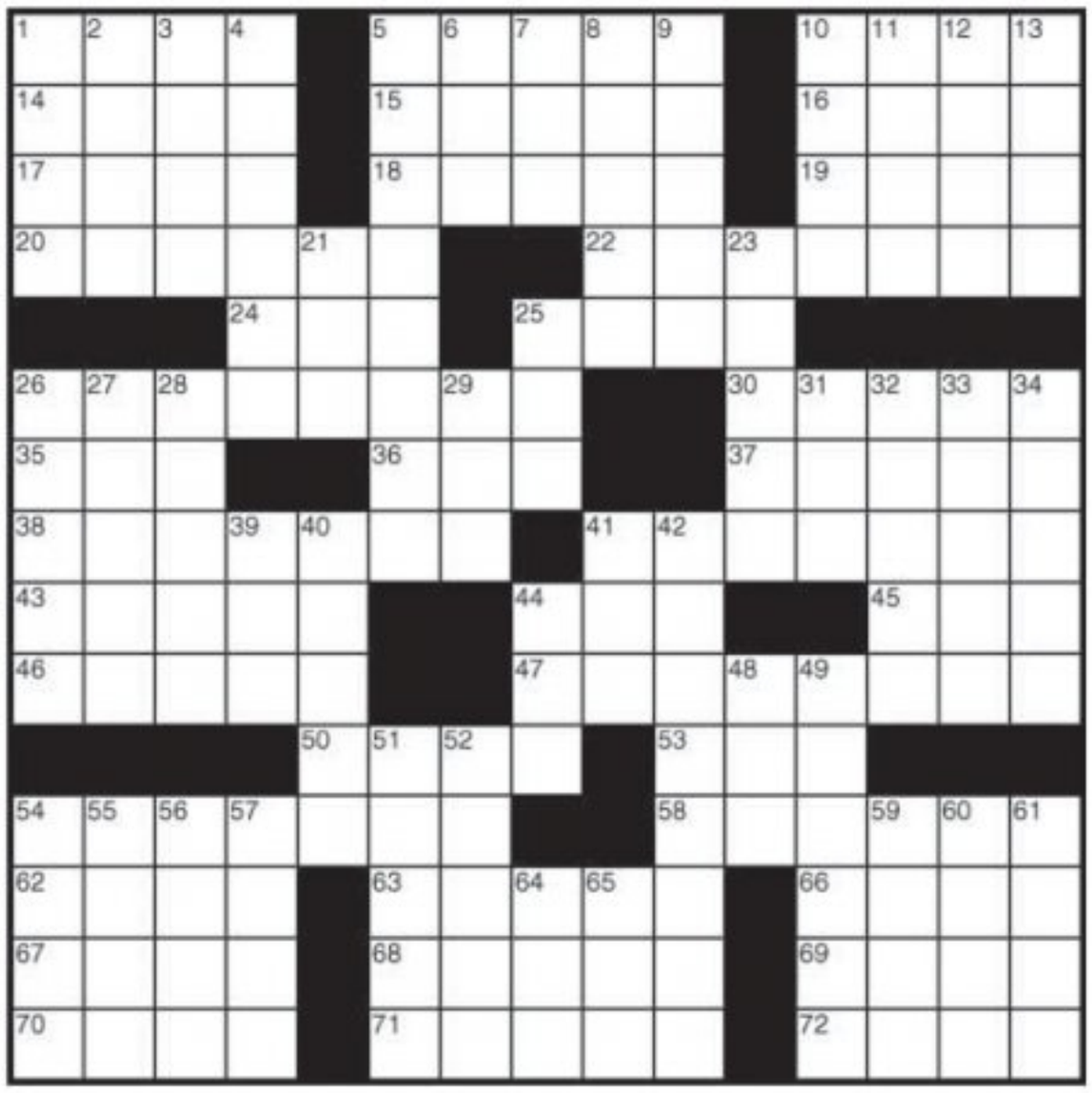
letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

Across
1 Fearsome cape
5 Squirrel away
10 Uses a ray gun
14 Jai —
15 Farther from the middle
16 Foreign visitors?
17 Brass component
18 Forte's opposite
19 Final
20 Alpine refrains
22 Makes certain
24 Gathered dust
25 Bug repellent
26 Pine or fir
30 Dots on the map
35 201, to Claudius
36 Returns org.
37 Freeloader
38 Falcons' town
41 Ptah, along the Nile
43 Stall
44 — kwon do
45 Bravo, in Acapulco
46 Kind of bath
47 Tending toward
50 Put in hock
53 Chocolate-colored dog
54 Moor vista
58 Things to strive for
62 While away
63 Up and about
66 To — — (exactly)
67 Carnival attraction
68 Senseless
69 Player's turn
70 Wagon pullers
71 — on (incited)
72 Save a coupon

Down
1 Vague
2 Mishmash
3 McNally's partner
4 Friendliest
5 Makes it snappy (3 wds.)
6 Yes, to Yvette
7 — — loss
8 Ms. Zellweger
9 Hum
10 Z in phonetic alphabet
11 Miles away
12 Pretend to be
13 Former JFK arrivals
21 Attorney's field
23 Step
25 Library letters
26 Gazillions
27 Vocal group
28 Monsieur's daughter
29 A feast — — famine
31 Wave maker
32 Drop a hint (2 wds.)
33 Quebec school
34 Destroy a document
39 Battery size
40 Dryad
41 Pantry item
42 Lay down
44 Baking pan
48 Fictional collie
49 Steel girders (hyph.)
51 Nest on a crag
52 Twist forcibly
54 Al the trumpet player
55 Ms. McClurg
56 "Hawkeye" Pierce
57 Bristle with
59 Sun god
60 Name in jeans
61 Leak slowly
64 Decline
65 Flight dir.



Yesterday's answer

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COOPER'S NEW CONTRACT IS END OF IMPROBABLE JOURNEY

When Riley Cooper signed a five-year, $25 million contract with the Eagles last week, it was the latest plot twist in one of the most improbable comeback stories in Philadelphia sports history. Eight months after his reputation was in ruins and his NFL career appeared over, he is a born-again football hero.

He did not navigate this remarkable journey alone. In fact, his refurbished image is the best indication yet of just how smart the Eagles have become since Chip Kelly arrived to coach the team 14 months ago.

How to save a career, in four remarkable steps:

1 Leave the scene of the crime

After video of Cooper blurting out the N-word at a Kenny Chesney concert surfaced last July, the wide receiver left the team to consider what he said and why he said it. After a long weekend — four days, really — Cooper came back. By all accounts, he underwent no sensitivity training, no psychological testing, nothing. He just apologized profusely, and then he started playing again.

Riley Cooper was one of Nick Foles' favorite targets in 2013, compiling 47 catches and eight touchdowns. / GETTY IMAGES

The Voice of Philly Sports

ANGELO CATALDI

Quoted

Eight months after his reputation was in ruins and his NFL career appeared over, [Cooper] is a born-again football hero.

2 Have understanding teammates

The only reason Cooper has a guaranteed $10 million in his pocket is because Michael Vick welcomed him back with words and actions that reflected a sensitivity honed during Vick's own struggles in prison. The one thing Vick couldn't do was improve Cooper's status as a non-entity in the offense, as the wide receiver's eight catches in the first six games illustrated.

3 Catch a break

Vick's injury in game six was actually the turning point in Cooper's renaissance, since it brought Nick Foles onto the field, where the young quarterback exploited his favorite target's size and sure-handedness. Not only did Foles throw the ball to Cooper twice as much as Vick did, but they combined for seven touchdowns together in the final 10 games of the season.

4 Listen to Chip Kelly

The director of this amazing comeback story was Kelly, start to finish. The coach was the one who refused to release Cooper right after the Chesney video, even though there was no guarantee the player would make the roster anyway. Kelly was also the one who sent Cooper home while the story cooled down. And ultimately Kelly called the plays that exploited Cooper's previously underutilized talents.

In the end, Cooper said he never intended to sign anywhere else after the crazy last eight months.

He said he loved being an Eagle, loved working with Foles and especially loved playing for Kelly.

No one had to tell Cooper how lucky he was to be in the right city, with the right people supporting him.

3 SPORTS

Road gets tougher

76ers face Thunder on road

The Sixers, a struggling team with half of its roster revamped and most of its big names gone, are probably not going to be where they want to be Tuesday night. The squad will face the second-best team in the NBA, the Oklahoma City Thunder, at 8 p.m., looking to shake a 14-game losing streak.

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Cataldi on the 76ers

Sixers should retire past after retiring Iverson

When your present stinks, live in the past. That's the credo right now of the Sixers, who rolled out Allen Iverson yet again last weekend for another curtain call, and one more excuse for fans to buy tickets to an otherwise unwatchable game.

Iverson was the biggest attraction in Philadelphia's pro basketball history, bigger than Wilt Chamberlain, bigger than even Julius Erving. What the tiny guard from Georgetown had that those other legends didn't is a deep connection with the fans. He sold more seats. It's that simple.

But there comes a time when the well runs dry, and that moment has arrived for Iverson. He had a tribute night the first game back in his second tour here, at the end of that season,

Allen Iverson's No. 3 joined seven other 76ers greats in the Wells Fargo Center rafters this weekend. / GETTY IMAGES

again in the opener this year and once more on Saturday night. What's left to say?

The saddest part of Iverson's repeated encores is the reminder that nothing good has happened in the 13 years since the Sixers made it to the NBA Finals with him. The contrast between those sold-out games, those electric moments, those jubilant crowds and today's joyless, empty era is jarring.

It is no secret that Iverson's fate has taken an ugly turn of its own in the past decade, as he faces a very public divorce and well-documented money problems. The transition to life after basketball seems especially difficult for Iverson, and the cheers probably offered some solace.

But enough is enough. It's time for a truly beloved hero to move on, and for the Sixers to find somebody new for the fans to cheer.

ANGELO CATALDI

Idle thoughts

- The best news of the week for the Phillies was the addition of Mike Schmidt to the broadcast booth for 13 Sunday home games this season. Not only does this mean that baseball's greatest third baseman is recovering well from recent medical issues, but also that the most honest voice in the organization will be heard on a regular basis. Bravo.
- Danny Granger's tenure on the Sixers lasted all of six days, and he never made it onto the court with his new team. Still, he had a glorious run here compared to Andrew Bynum.
- The Eagles signed four top players last week — Jason Peters, Jason Kelce, Jeremy Maclin and Riley Cooper — with almost no drama, proving once again that this is not Joe Banner's team anymore. Has anyone ever been missed less than Banner?

Cataldi. Phils' gamble on Gonzalez not looking good after debut

For the past six months, Miguel Alfredo Gonzalez has been baseball's man of mystery, a Cuban defector whose right arm convinced the Phillies to offer him $48 million even though he hadn't pitched competitively for close to two years. Well, Gonzalez finally made his U.S. debut last Saturday, and now the questions are even louder.

Against a mishmash of big leaguers and young prospects, Gonzalez labored through five outs against the Yankees, walking four, allowing one run and two hits and throwing an astonishing 51 pitches.

There was almost no evidence of the 95 mph fastball that was once his primary attraction; both of his strikeouts came on change-ups to minor-leaguers.

Who is this man, and why is he on the Phillies?

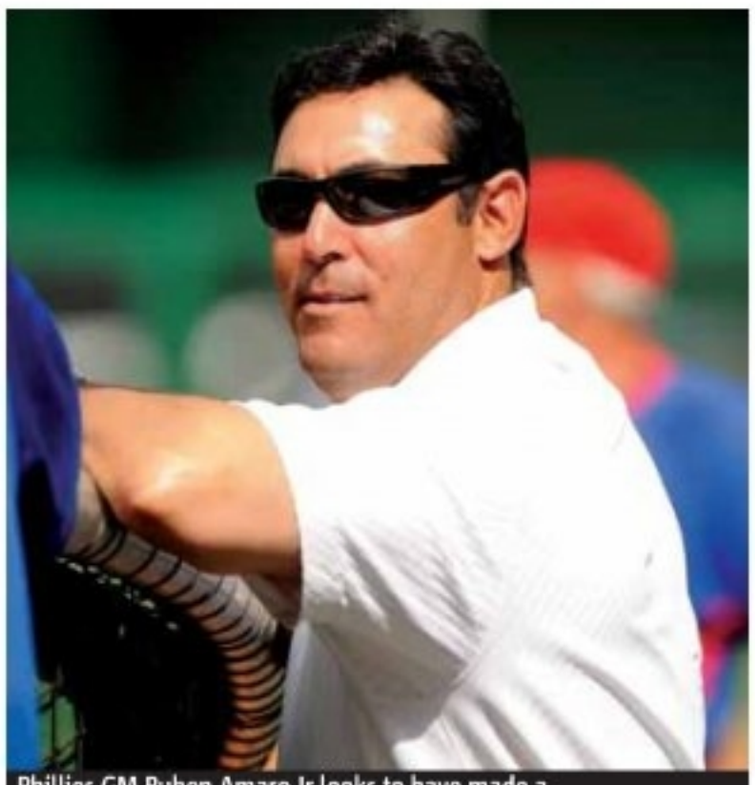
Even now, no one has a logical answer to that question. First of all, it is inconceivable that Gonzalez was willing to take a 400 percent cut in pay, to $12 million, after the Phillies flunked him on his first physical exam.

Why didn't Gonzalez take one of the other offers? Were there any other offers?

After his faltering debut, Gonzalez actually made the situation even worse when he called it "a great first time out," raising questions about his grasp of English too.

As one of the fans behind home plate Saturday in Tampa, I can say with great confidence that Gonzalez's first game was not great, not good, not even mediocre. The best word I can offer is alarming.

And what was most alarming was the original decision by the Phillies to offer someone with no big-league experience, dubious health and an ordinary fastball $48 million. Gonzalez did not look good at all Saturday in Tampa. And neither did general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. ANGELO CATALDI


Phillies GM Ruben Amaro Jr looks to have made a big mistake signing Gonzalez. / GETTY IMAGES

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Eagles re-sign tackle Thornton

Cedric Thornton will return for his third season in Philly. / GETTY IMAGES

NFL. The Eagles will bring back defensive tackle Cedric Thornton in 2014.

After making headlines with their offense last week, the Eagles are shifting their focus to retaining and signing a solid defensive core. This began Monday when the team announced they had inked defensive lineman Cedric Thornton to a one-year pact.

The 25-year-old has only played two NFL seasons, making his re-signing almost a foregone conclusion prior to Monday.

Thornton is a member of the Eagles' very young front four. The seven defensive lineman under contract for Philadelphia average 24.6 years old. Along with Thornton, two other starting linemen will return in 2014, Bennie Logan and Fletcher Cox.

The one-time undrafted free agent battled from a spot on the practice squad to playing in all 16 games a year ago.

At 6-foot-4 and 309 pounds, Thornton recorded 78 tackles and a sack during the 2013 campaign.

By the numbers

46
Number of sacks compiled by the Eagles defense in 2013, good enough to crack the top 10 at No. 8 in the NFL.

127
DeMeco Ryans led all Eagles with 127 combined tackles.

8
Number of sacks for Trent Cole, the Eagles leader in that category in 2013.

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Phillies fall again

Hernandez looks solid in Phillies loss

Roberto Hernandez, battling for a spot in the Phillies starting rotation, pitched three impressive scoreless innings Monday, giving up one hit and striking out three in a 6-1 loss to the Rays.

The Phillies' sole run came on a Will Nieves RBI-single scoring Leandro Castro.

Shortstop Freddy Galvis exited the game with an ankle injury.

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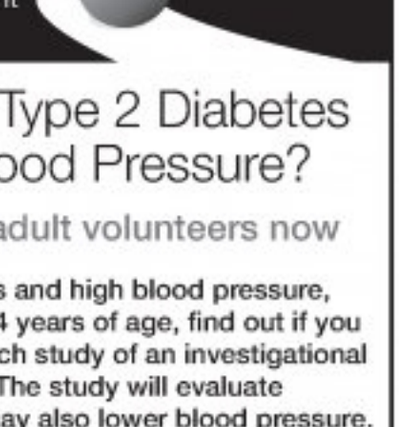

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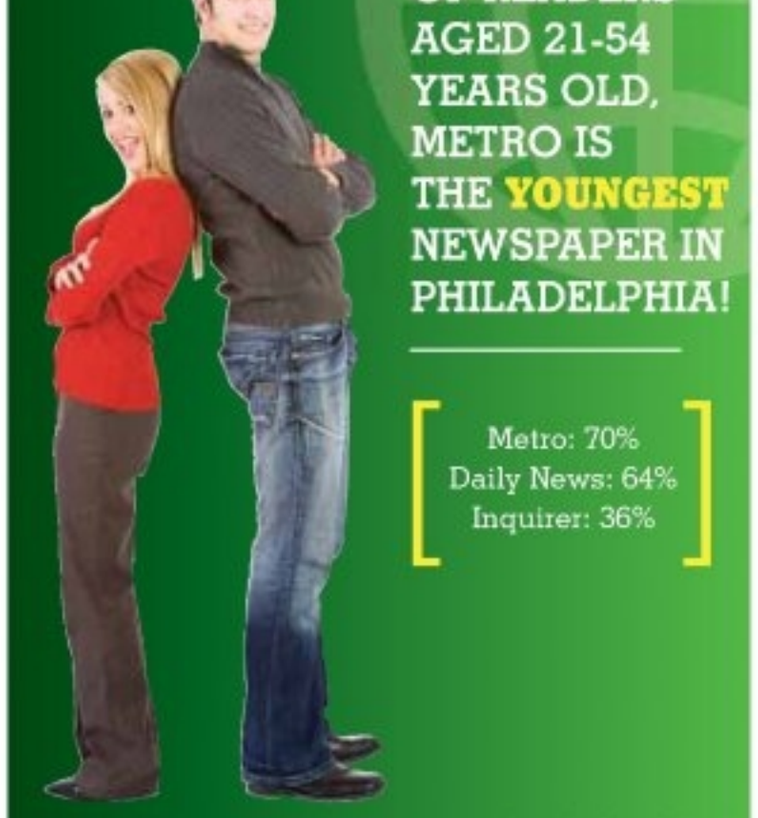

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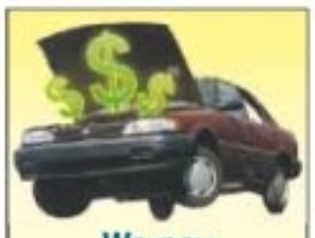

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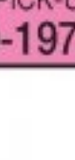

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